(c) the budget earmarked for the Mumbai Metro along with the amount released so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SAUGATA ROY): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Government of India released Rs.235.5 crore in 2009-10 for line-1 of Mumbai Metro.

Releasing of surplus water from dams

3216. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:
SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that releasing of surplus water from dams during the period of heavy rains without prior warning has been one of the main reasons for the deteriorated flood situation, recently, in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra:

(b) if so, whether Government has any plan for galvanizing the inter-State and Centre State mechanisms to coordinate actions such as releasing of surplus water from dams, issuing early warnings and evacuating people from the vulnerable areas downstream during such calamities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) The question does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

River linking project

3217. SHRI N.K. SINGH:
SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is quietly implementing the dream river linking project despite objections by environmentalists;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the feasibility study for all 16 peninsular rivers has been completed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the further reaction of Government in view of objections by environmentalists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Water Resources (MOWR) (erstwhile Ministry of Irrigation) formulated a National Perspective Plan (NPP) for Water Resources Development in 1980 envisaging inter -basin transfer of water from surplus basins to deficit basins/areas which comprises of two

components, namely, Himalayan Rivers Development Component and Peninsular Rivers Development Component. National Water Development Agency (NWDA) was set up under the MOWR in 1982 for carrying out various technical studies to establish the feasibility of the proposals of NPP and to give concrete shape to it. Based on various studies conducted, NWDA has identified 30 links (16 under Peninsular Component & 14 under Himalayan Component) for preparation of Feasibility Reports (FRs). Out of these, FRs of 14 links under Peninsular Component and of 2 links (Indian Portion) under Himalayan Component have been completed. Further, five links in the peninsular component have been identified as priority links for building consensus among concerned state for taking up their Details Project Reports (DPRs). DPR of one priority link namely Ken - Betwa has been completed. Further, NWDA has taken up the DPRs of another two priority links namely Par - Tapi - Narmada & Damanganga - Pinjal after concurrence of the concerned states which are planned to be completed by December, 2011. Another Priority link namely Godavari (Polavaram) - Krishna (Vijayawada) link is part of the Polavaram project of the Andhra Pradesh. Planning Commission has given investment clearance to the Polavaram Project and the Government of Andhra Pradesh has taken up the above project including link component as per their proposals.

(d) The projects including interlinking projects are taken up for implementation after the clearances of the central appraising agencies which include Environmental clearance by Ministry of Environment & Forests (MOEF), Techno-economic clearance by Technical Advisory Committee of Ministry of Water Resources, clearance by Ministry of Tribal Affairs and investment clearance by the Planning Commission.

Further, the Ministry of Water Resources has constituted a committee of environmentalists, social scientists and other experts on Interlinking of Rivers on 28.12.2004 under the Chairmanship of Secretary (WR) with a view to make the process of proceeding on ILR consultative. The committee comprises of members from concerned Government departments, eminent environmentalists, and social scientists and NGOs. The committee renders its advice to the Government from time to time on its terms of reference. The committee has held 7 meetings so far. NWDA has taken necessary action on the suggestions made by the committee.

Decline in flow of major rivers

3218. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether deficient monsoons have left majority of major rivers thirsty in India, if so, whether they are carrying 11 per cent less water than last year;

(b) whether according to latest figures compiled by Central Water Commission, overall departure in terms of availability of water is nearly 17 per cent of 10 years average;

(c) if so, whether there was a shortage of more than 63 per cent on 10-years average, in Godavari, the departure in Indus and Ganga rivers are more than 46 per cent and 36 per cent respectively; and